

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD  
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5323  
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)  
feingold.senate.gov

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

May 15, 2003

The Honorable  
Colin Powell  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

I write concerning reports indicating that ten suspects in the 2000 terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen escaped from custody on April 11 of this year. It has been my understanding that the perpetrators of that attack, which killed 17 American sailors, including one from my home state of Wisconsin, have been linked to al-Qaida. Reports indicate that all ten escapees are still at large, and that indictments will be unsealed today in U.S. District Court in New York charging two of them with involvement in the attack.

Unfortunately, the information available to me about this matter comes from press reports rather than from the Administration. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am deeply disturbed by these reports and am convinced that neither I nor my colleagues can adequately provide oversight and support to the fight against international terrorism without more complete information about such developments and sound analysis regarding what these events reveal about various governments' commitment to the global campaign against terrorism.

I request that the Department provide information, in the form of a classified briefing if necessary, detailing what is known thus far about the suspects, the circumstances surrounding their detention and escape, the vigor of current Yemeni and international efforts to find and detain them, and their current whereabouts and activities. In addition, I request information about the extent of U.S. involvement in monitoring these detainees prior to their escape, and information about the nature of the assurances, commitments, and cooperation that the U.S. had received from the Yemeni government regarding their commitment to prosecuting those responsible for the attack. Given the importance of this issue for the fight against global terrorism and for the U.S.-Yemeni relationship, I request that this information be provided as soon as possible.

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS  
ROOM 100  
MIDDLETON, WI 53562  
(608) 828-1200  
(608) 829-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
ROOM 408  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202  
(414) 276-7282

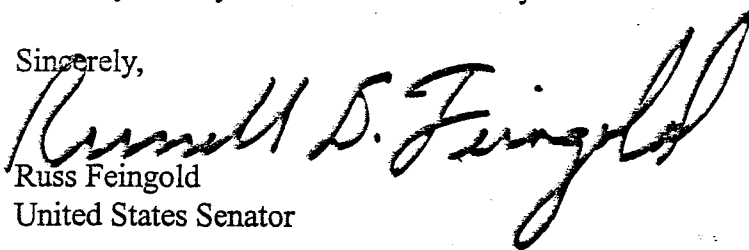
○ 401 5TH STREET  
ROOM 410  
WAUSAU, WI 54403  
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET  
ROOM 225  
LA CROSSE, WI 54601  
(608) 782-5585

○ 1640 MAIN STREET  
GREEN BAY, WI 54302  
(920) 465-7508

I thank you for your assistance and for your service to the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell D. Feingold". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Russ Feingold  
United States Senator